In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 10-12 as indicated and add new claims 14-21.

B1

1. (Currently amended) A method of treating hypertension in a mammal, which has experienced intrauterine under nutrition and/or growth retardation or an adverse post natal environment, the method comprising the step of administering to the mammal an effective amount of ~~an agent, wherein the agent is a ligand which binds to, and activates, the growth hormone receptor~~ growth hormone, wherein said amount is effective to reduce blood pressure in said mammal.

2. (Currently amended) A method of treating hypertension in a mammal, which has experienced intrauterine under nutrition and/or growth retardation or an adverse post natal environment, the method comprising the step of administering to the mammal an effective amount of ~~an agent~~ a growth hormone selected from the group consisting of human growth hormone~~, an analog thereof, and a functionally equivalent ligand~~ bovine growth hormone, rat growth hormone or porcine growth hormone.

3. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mammal has experienced an adverse postnatal environment comprising a hypocaloric or hypercaloric diet.

4. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mammal is an adult mammal.

5. (Original) A method as claimed claim 4 wherein the mammal is an adult human.

6. (Currently amended) A method as claimed ~~in~~ in claim 5 wherein ~~the agent administered to the mammal~~ said growth hormone is human growth hormone.

Cont B1

7. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the ~~agent~~ growth hormone is administered to the mammal in combination with ~~a~~; a second anti-hypertensive agent.

8. (Currently amended) A method of treating hypertension in a mammal, which has experienced intrauterine under nutrition and/or growth retardation or an adverse postnatal environment, the method comprising the step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone~~, an analog thereof or a functionally equivalent ligand~~ in the mammal, wherein said step of increasing is sufficient to decrease blood pressure.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the mammal has experienced an adverse postnatal environment comprising a hypocaloric or hypercaloric diet.

10. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~either~~ claim 8 wherein the effective concentration of the growth hormone, ~~an analog thereof or a functionally equivalent ligand~~ is increased through administration of an agent which either stimulates production of growth hormone or which lessens or prevents inhibition of growth hormone activity.

11. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~either~~ claim 8 wherein the effective concentration of growth hormone is increased through direct administration of growth hormone.

12. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in any one of claims 8 ~~to~~ to 11 wherein the mammal is an adult human.

Rule 1.126

Please add the following new claims.

20

~~13~~. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein said second anti-hypertensive agent is an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor.

Cont 21

21.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein said angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor is quinapril.

22.

15. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering a growth hormone releasing peptide (GHRP).

23.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said GHRP is selected from the group consisting of GHRP-1, GHRP-2, GHRP-6, hexarelin, G-7039, G7502,L-692,429, L-692,585 and L-163,191.

24.

17. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH).

25.

18. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering an inhibitor of a growth hormone antagonist.

26.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said inhibitor is somatostatin release inhibitor factor.

27.

20. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the dose of said growth hormone is in the range of
about 0.1 μg/kg/day to
about 1 mg/kg/day.

28.

21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said blood pressure is systolic blood pressure.